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It is unnecessary to advance them any reasons why this bill should be passed, and the park established as proposed. We only allude to the great advantages to science and the general public which would inevitably result from the gathering together at the capital of the nation of a great collection of quadrupeds, birds, and reptiles living and breeding under highly favorable conditions. The time is fast approaching when many of our most noteworthy American quadrupeds will exist only in parks and menageries. The buffalo is now almost extinct in his wild state, and the Rocky Mountain goat is also certain to disappear in a very few years more.

Ours is almost the only great nation which does not maintain a national zoological garden on a grand scale, and we are glad to see that the idea of such an institution for us is at last taking tangible shape. It is eminently proper that it should be located at the capital city, which is now the scientific centre of the nation, and the Mecca which is visited annually by tens of thousands of citizens from every nook and corner of America.

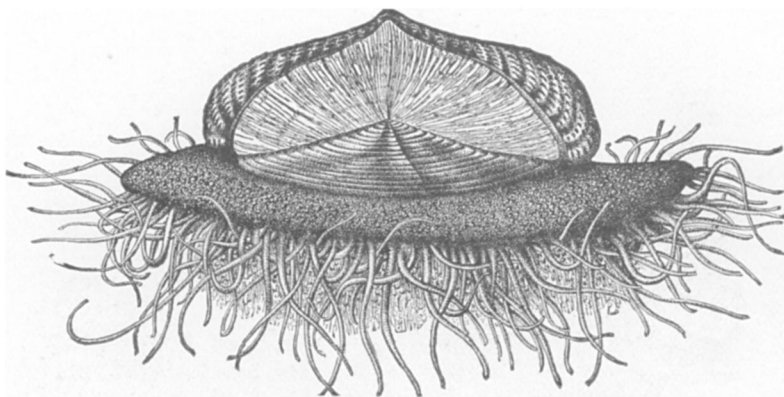
RECENT LITERATURE.

THREE CRUISES OF THE BLAKE.¹—In recent years American work in marine exploration has been overshadowed by the prominence given to the celebrated Voyage of the "Challenger," while the magnificent manner in which the scientific results of that voyage have been published by Her Majesty's Government is unrivalled. Still, American science is doing much to unravel the secrets of the sea, and the investigations of the Fish Commission and of the Coast Survey stand second only to those of the "Challenger" in their importance.

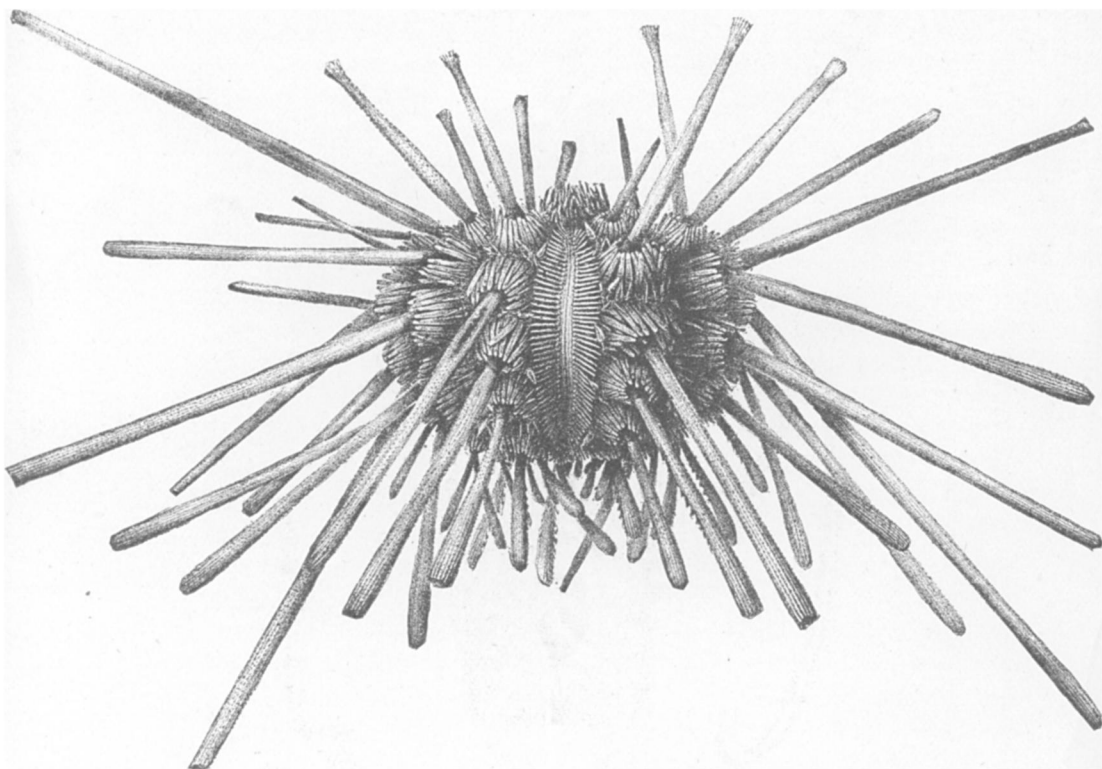
In the two volumes by Mr. Agassiz we have a popular account of the results of the Cruises of the Coast Survey Steamer "Blake," which is entitled to rank with the accounts of Moseley, Spry, or even of Wyville Thompson, of the Voyage of the "Challenger,"

¹ Three Cruises of the United States Coast and Geodetic Survey Steamer "Blake" in the Gulf of Mexico, in the Caribbean Sea and along the Atlantic Coast of the United States, from 1877 to 1880. By Alexander Agassiz. 2 vols. 8vo, pp. xxii., 314 and 220. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co. 1888. \$8.00.

PLATE VIII.

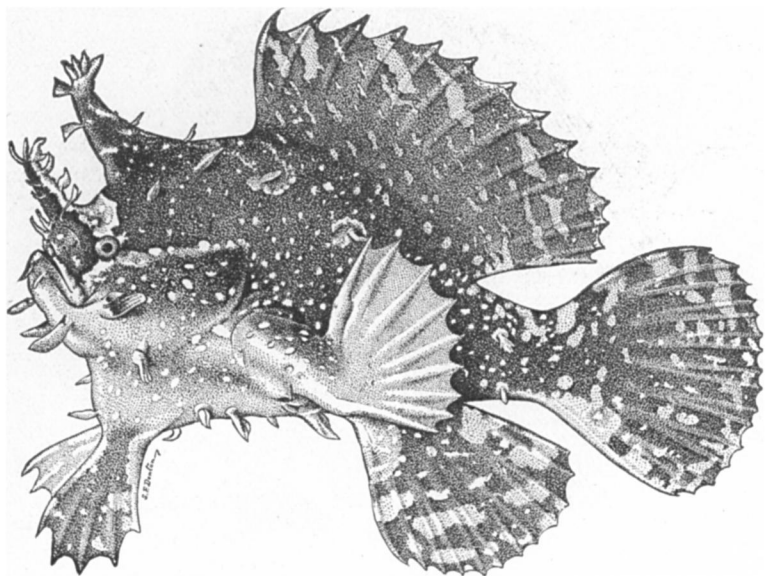


Verella mutica.

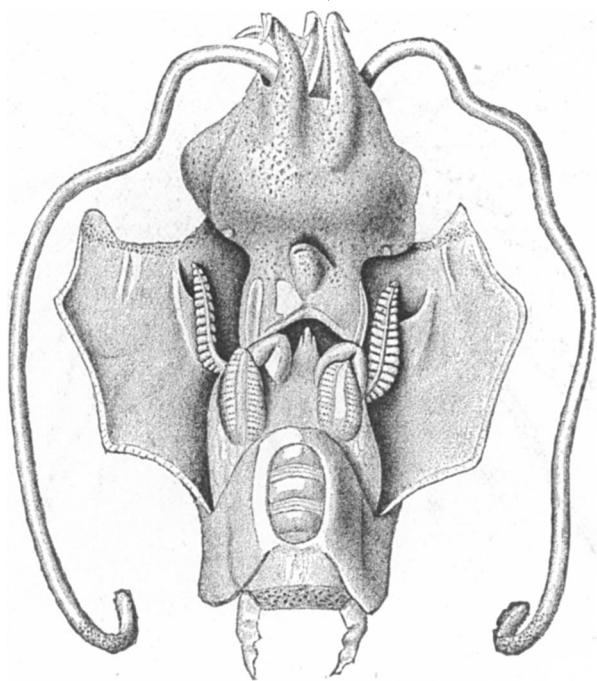


Porocidaris sharrei.

PLATE IX.



Antennarius.



Spirula.

while in wealth of illustration, in mechanical execution or in novelty of facts and theory, it stands second to none of these. Aside from the numerous maps, the illustrations have been mostly made by some of the photo-engraving processes, and the perfection to which these have arrived may be seen from the figures which accompany this notice.

Passing by the chapters which give a history of the progress of deep-sea investigation and that detailing the special equipment of the "Blake," a small three-hundred ton steamer—for the work, we come to one which has a special fascination, since it deals with the structure of the Florida reefs and their bearings on the theories of coral reefs in general. Space will not allow a recapitulation of the structure of Florida and the Florida plateau, but the facts are such as to lead Dr. Agassiz to lean towards the theory of Semper rather than to that of Darwin and Dana in seeking their explanation.

Other chapters which have a bearing upon geology and physical geography are those upon the topography of the Eastern Coast of the North American continent; the permanence of continents and of oceanic basins; the temperature of the sea in the regions explored, not only at the surface, but at the bottom as well; and an account of the Gulf Stream. All of these are illustrated by charts and diagrams, some in color, and especially interesting among the maps are reproductions of some old ones in which the Gulf Stream is shown. Somewhat similar in character is the chapter dealing with sub-marine deposits, and especially those of the deep-sea where the sources of supply are so small that even the dust of shooting stars and meteorites form an appreciable element.

The chapter on the pelagic fauna is full of interest to anyone who has seen the prizes taken by the skimming net; but to most people the second volume, which deals exclusively with the animals of the deep-sea, will prove of greatest interest. Here the author has had the aid of specialists, and has brought together a compendious account of the strange and bizarre creatures inhabiting those depths. As some of the work has been in type for two years we miss, at times, references to late discussions of certain forms. *Ipnotops*, for instance, that curious fish without eyes, but with peculiar sensory or phosphorescent organs occupying the whole upper surface of the head, is figured, but no reference is made to Moseley's recent investigation of its structure.

As a whole, the book is full of interest, not only to the naturalist, but to those who merely desire to keep posted on the latest discoveries and explorations. Typographical and other errors are extremely few, but one of the features which seems peculiar is the retention of the antiquated names *Acalephs* and *Polyps*.